GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3499
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2001
ADULT EDUCATION
SAHIB SINGH VERMA

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the percentage and total number of illiterate persons between 25-60 years age group in various States of the country;

(b)the trend of increase in adult education during the last three years;

(c) the performance of adult education at secondary and senior secondary level; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the adult education?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) State-wise information in respect of percentage and total number of non- literates in age group 25-60 is not available. However, the census 2001 (provisional) indicates that country has made significant progress in the last decade. The literacy rate in 7 + age-group increased from 52.21% in 1991 to 65.38% in 2001 despite decadal population growth rate of 21.34 per cent. The 13.17 percentage points increase in the literacy rate during the period is the highest increase in any decade since independence. For the first time there is decline in absolute number of non-literates by about 32 million. Out of 858 million people in 7+ age group, 562 million are now literate.

(b) The literacy rate increased from 62% in 1997 (as per National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) 53rdround) to 63.1% in 1998 (as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS)- II 1998) to 65.38 % as per Census 2001 (provisional) in 7+ age group.

(c) Since inception of National Literacy Mission 91.53 million people in the age group of 15-35 have been made literate

(d) Steps taken by the Government to increase the adult education include;

- Revision of National Literacy Mission (NLM) parameters and enhancement of financial norms,

- Integration of the phases of Total Literacy and Post Literacy,

- Delegation of powers to State Literacy Mission Authorities,

- Enlarging the scope of Continuing Education,

- Strengthening of Jan Shikshan Sansthans and extending their activities in rural areas.

- Revitalizing State Resource Centres for preparation of better teaching learning materials and improved quality of training.